Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A web transfer apparatus for a machine ~~for making~~ adapted to manufacture a fibrous web, comprising:

a first transfer device positioned in a press section of the machine for transferring ~~a wet~~ the fibrous web, the fibrous web exiting the first transfer device being relatively wet;

a second transfer device positioned downstream of the first transfer device to receive the fibrous web ~~directed~~ from the first transfer device, the first transfer device and the second transfer device defining a space therebetween; and

a substantially planar threading device having opposed ends and positioned in the space between the first transfer device and the second transfer device, the threading device being pivotable about the end proximate the first transfer device so as to be movable thereabout between an inoperative position and an operative position with respect to the space, the threading device including an upper surface over which a tail of the fibrous web ~~travels~~ is directed, without lateral displacement thereof, during a threading operation, when the threading device is pivoted to the operative position, from the first transfer device to the second transfer device, the threading device including a plurality of tubes, each of the plurality of tubes defining at least one outlet for discharging air along at least a portion of the upper surface so as to provide an air cushion between the upper surface and the fibrous web such that the fibrous web tends to follow the upper surface in the direction of the second transfer device and is threaded thereinto.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second transfer device comprises a press having a transfer nip formed between a guide roll and a suction transfer roll.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second transfer device includes at least one roll that is positioned in the press section of the machine.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second transfer device includes at least one roll that is positioned in a drying section of the machine.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the fibrous web exiting~~ the first transfer device [[has]] is configured to transfer the fibrous web, having a dryness of about 20-50%, into the space between the between the first transfer device and the second transfer device.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the fibrous web exiting~~ the first transfer device [[has]] is configured to transfer the fibrous web, having a dryness of less than about 60%, into the space between the between the first transfer device and the second transfer device.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first transfer device includes a roll that supports the fibrous web, and further comprising a movable cutting device proximate the roll of the first transfer device that is operable to form the tail of the fibrous web.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the outlet defined by at least one of the plurality of tubes of the threading device comprises a plurality of openings for discharging air.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of tubes of the threading device each comprises a plurality of openings for discharging air, the openings of adjacent tubes being spaced apart relative to each other in a direction substantially transverse to a path of travel of the fibrous web defined by the threading operation of the fibrous web over the threading device.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the threading device is adjustable in position in a direction substantially transverse to a path of travel of the fibrous web.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of tubes extend in a direction substantially transverse to a path of travel of the fibrous web.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of tubes each have a substantially rectangular shape.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for transferring~~ adapted to transfer a fibrous web along a path of travel between first and second transfer devices in a press section of a machine for ~~making~~ manufacturing the fibrous web, the apparatus comprising:

a substantially planar threading device for directing a tail of the fibrous web from the first transfer device to the second transfer device,

the threading device having opposed ends and being configured to be pivotable about the end proximate the first transfer device so as to be movable thereabout between an inoperative position and an operative position in a space between the first transfer device and the second transfer device,

the threading device including a plurality of tubes that collectively define an upper surface over which the tail of the fibrous web ~~travels~~ is directed, without lateral displacement thereof, during a threading operation when the substantially planar threading device is pivoted to the operative position, each of the plurality of tubes defining at least one outlet for discharging air along at least a portion of the stationary upper surface so as to provide an air cushion between the stationary upper surface and the fibrous web such that the fibrous web tends to follow the upper surface in the direction of the second transfer device and is threaded thereinto.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the first transfer device is configured to transfer the fibrous web, having a relative dryness of about 20-50%, ~~transferred~~ between the first and second transfer devices ~~has a relative dryness of about 20-50% as the web exits the first transfer device~~.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the first transfer device is configured to transfer the fibrous web, having a relative dryness of less than about 60%, ~~transferred~~ between the first and second transfer devices ~~has a relative dryness of less than about 60%~~.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising a movable cutting device proximate the first transfer device that is operable to cut the tail of the fibrous web.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the second transfer device includes a transfer nip between a guide roll and a suction transfer roll that is operable to receive the tail of the fibrous web directed from the threading device.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the plurality of tubes extend in a direction substantially transverse to a path of travel of the fibrous web over the threading device.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the plurality of tubes each have a substantially rectangular shape.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring a tail of a fibrous web between first and second transfer devices in a press section of a machine for ~~making~~ manufacturing the fibrous web, the method comprising:

~~positioning a pivotable threading device between the first transfer device and the second transfer device in an operative position;~~

directing the tail from the first transfer device to [[the]] a pivotable and substantially planar threading device having opposed ends and positioned in an operative position between the first transfer device and the second transfer device, the threading device being pivotable about

the end proximate the first transfer device between an inoperative position and the operative position;

directing air through respective outlets of a plurality of tubes that collectively define an upper surface of the ~~pivotable~~ threading device so as to provide an air cushion between the upper surface and the fibrous web; and

directing the tail along the air cushion and upper surface of the ~~pivotable~~ threading device without lateral displacement thereof and in the direction of the second transfer device such that the tail is threaded thereinto.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 22, wherein directing the tail from the first transfer device to the ~~pivotable~~ threading device includes cutting the tail with a cutting device positioned adjacent the first transfer device.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 22, wherein directing the tail from the first transfer device to the ~~pivotable~~ threading device includes directing the tail along a guide plate proximate the threading device.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 22, wherein positioning the ~~pivotable~~ threading device includes pivoting the threading device about ~~a joint~~ the end proximate the first transfer device so as to define a predetermined angle between the upper surface of the threading device and a vertical plane, and maintaining the predetermined angle while the tail of the fibrous web is directed from the first transfer device to the second transfer device.